foreign bidders. Out of 9 foreign bidders, 7 did not meet technical/ commercial qualification criteria. Remaining 2 foreign bidders qualified techno-commercially along with 3 Indian bidders. However, evaluated rates of both the foreign bidders were not competitive as compared to rates offered by the Indian parties.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of petroleum products

†2102. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petrol, diesel, natural gas, naphtha and other petroleum projects are imported;

(b) if so, the quantum of each of the above item imported during 2000-2001, 2001-02 and the first nine months of 2002-2003; and

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange utilised for this import together with the reasons for the import of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) There have been no import of natural gas. Further, petrol has not been imported during the period 2000-01 to 2002-03. Details of imports of diesel and natptha, alongwith foreign exchange incurred on such imports are given below:

	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03 (Apr-Dec)	
	Qty In TMT	Value Million US$	Qty in TMT	Value Million US$	Qty in TMT	Value Million US$
Diesel (HSD)	-	-	31	6	21	4
Naphtha	3165	897	3308	724	1934	491

*TMT: thousand metrict tonnes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

During the period, while diesel was imported by the private parties for their own consumption, the imports of naphtha took place on account of reasons such as logistical constraints in getting domestic product, price advantage of imported product *vis-a-vis* domestic product, requirement of product with specific technical specifications, etc.

Demand and production of petroleum products

†2103. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of petrol, diesel, natural gas, LPG, naphtha is going down as compared to their production;

(b) if not, the assessment of their demand and production during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 and during the last six months of 2002-2003; and

(c) the quantity of the extra production of these products exported at the end of the year alongwith their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (d) The details of demand and production of petrol, diesel, LPG and naphtha are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). As regards natural gas, the production of the same during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (April' 02-January '03) has been as follows:

2000-2001	2001-02	(Fig. in BCM*) April '02-January '03 (provisional)
29.48	29.71	26.07

*BCM-Million Cubic Metres.

There is a large gap between demand and supply of natural gas. As against the current allocation of 120 million metric standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas, the current supply is about 65 MMSCMD.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.